



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Sentencing of Former Priest Mkalavishvili in Georgia

As delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes
to the Permanent Council,
February 10, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States commends the Government of Georgia for its pursuit of justice in cases of religiously motivated violence, and notes the January 31 prison sentence of defrocked Orthodox priest Basili Mkalavishvili and his colleagues.

We urge the government to hold the course in this and other cases where the law has been violated and to take further concrete steps to promote religious tolerance.

Thank you.